

BUSINESS STATISTICS - 26th November, 1941.

Records in employment and factory activity, in the use of gas and electricity, and in rail, tram and bus traffic reflect the expanding war effort. Higher incomes have enabled greater savings than ever before but trade returns may imply that civil consumption is not being curtailed as required to release resources for war. Building permits were reduced in Oct., 1941 at least in part because of the brick strike, since settled, America's Lend-Lease aid is increasing rapidly.

C O N T E N T S.

## PART

I      Season:      Rain needed.      Wheat harvest forecast.

Export Prices and      Prices steady. N.E. Indies sets up Purchasing  
External Conditions:      Office in Aust.      Conditions in U.K. - Reserved  
                                  age raised.      Fixed price replacing 'cost-plus' for war  
                                  contracts.      London stock market firm.      Conditions in U.S.A.  
                                  -Lend-Lease activities.      Coal strike ended.      Anti-Comintern pact  
                                  renewed in Berlin.      Iceland.      France.      Japan.      Italy.

Currency      British dollar assets diminishing.  
Relationships:      Sterling firm in New York.

Wool:      Wool handling difficulties.      Appraisements in Sydney.  
                                  Position of Australian mills in relation to increased  
                                  civilian woollen imports from Britain.

Wheat:      Harvest forecast at 45 m. bus. Canadian wheat sold to  
                                  U.K.      Prices steady.      Flour trade depressed.

Butter:      Production increasing.      Pastry and 2nd Grade butter.  
                                  Prices - export and local.

Metals:      Tin and silver firm in London.      Copper in Aust.  
                                  Export parities for Aust. metals - September, 1941.

## PART

II      Wholesale Trade:      Employment in N.S.W. - Mid-Oct., 1941.  
                                  Sales under Sales Tax Acts, Aug. & Jan.-Aug., 1941.  
                                  Retail Trade:      Employment in N.S.W. - mid-Oct., 1941.  
                                  Activity in City Shops - Sept. & Sept.Qr., 1941.  
                                  Savings Banks:      Depositors' Balances and Open Accounts - Oct. 31, 1941.  
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## PART

III      Employment, N.S.W.:      Persons employed - mid-October, 1941.  
                                  Manufacturing      Employment - mid-October, 1941.  
                                  Industries, N.S.W.:      42 Large Factories - Sales, etc. - Sept. & Jan.-Sept.  
                                       1941.  
                                  Gas & Electricity:      Index of Consumption (Sydney) - Oct., 1941.  
                                  Railways, N.S.W.:      Passengers, Freight & Finance - Sept. & Sept.Qr., 1941.  
                                  Trams & Buses.      Passengers & Finance - Sept. & Sept.Qr., 1941.  
                                  (Sydney & Newcastle)  
                                  Building Permits:      Value and No. of Dwellings - Oct. and Jan.-Oct., 1941.  
                                  Metropolis.

PART I PRIMARY AND EXPORT INDUSTRIES.

SEASON. Heavy general rain is needed though in recent weeks showers and thunderstorms have helped fill out the grain in wheat crops and to keep grasses growing in favoured areas. Last week there were light to moderate falls along the coast, Tablelands and North-western Slopes and Plains but the dry south-western section of the State did not benefit. In the final forecast the estimate of the N.S.W. wheat harvest has been raised from 43 to 45 m. bus.

EXPORT PRICES AND  
EXTERNAL TRADE  
CONDITIONS.

Australian export prices have been maintained at a level comparable to that of the prosperous years 1935-36 to 1937-38 and about 20 p.c. above the pre-depression level. No fresh arrangements affecting exports of primary products have been announced but enquiries are proceeding regarding the position as affected by Lend-Lease exports of foodstuffs from U.S.A. to Britain. Australia is to send a large consignment of railway engines and waggons to Iran. The Neth.E. Indies is establishing a Purchasing Office in Australia.

In Britain the reserved age has been raised two years in about 70 occupations. Most war-plane production is now on a fixed price (instead of cost-plus) basis. Britain is supplying Russian needs on Lend-Lease terms. The London stock market is very firm, partly due to satisfaction with the Libyan offensive.

Contracts for more than 75 p.c. of the United States \$7,000 m. Lend-Lease appropriation have been let. During the war \$5,250 m. of U.S. goods have been shipped to U.K. including \$1,000 m. under Lend-Lease arrangements. In Sept. 1941 lend-lease supplies shipped were \$207 m. and those of Oct. were greater. The U.S. coal strike has ended and the threatened railway strike may be averted. Unoccupied France and French North Africa are now being blockaded by Britain as enemy-occupied territory. The U.S.A. has suspended export licenses for North Africa. Iceland is receiving food etc. from U.S.A. on Lend-lease terms. The Anti-Comintern Pact was renewed for five years in Berlin on Nov. 24. Japan is feeling effects of the assets-freezing move of the Democracies in commodity shortages. Italy is reported to be "in the grip of swift inflation".

INTERNATIONAL  
CURRENCY  
RELATIONSHIPS.

When British commitments entered into in America before the Lend-Lease arrangement are met it is expected that Britain's pre-war dollar resources, now reduced by about two-thirds, will be practically exhausted. Dollar funds remaining at Sept. 1, 1941 were estimated at \$1,527 m. of which about \$730 m. are presumed to be available as cash assets. By March next Britain will have met all pre-lend-lease obligations and at the beginning of that month will hold dollar balances of about \$150 m. only. Thereafter there must be reliance upon the earnings of British exporters to provide the funds required to pay for purchases from America outside the scope of the Lend-Lease Act.

During the past month the rate of exchange U.S.A. dollars for sterling in the open market in New York has been steady at buyers \$4.035 and sellers \$4.04 to £1 stg. Since May last the variations in the sterling dollar rate have been negligible.

WOOL. In New South Wales the shearing season is ~~at~~ ending, and there is still some difficulty in securing trucks to rail the wool to appraisement centres. Recent appraisements include a greater proportion of the better quality wool. Now that the ban on overtime in wool stores has been lifted it is expected that the rate of handling the clip will improve, but as there is to be no Saturday work it is doubtful if the full planned pre-Christmas appraisements can be completed.

From July 1 to Nov. 19, 1941 wool totalling 939,708 bales was received in Sydney compared with 969,049 bales in the corresponding period of last season. To that date 570,999 bales had been appraised, or 70,714 bales fewer than in 1940.

It is believed unlikely that any change in the British Government's purchase price for Australian wool will be made in respect of the current clip.

## PART I (Continued)

Australian woollen mills have been occupied mainly on military, etc. orders since the war began and have not been able to meet civilian demands. This has enabled British manufacturers to increase their shipments to Australia, and apparently the urgency of war supplies and the benefit of speedy filling of orders has justified this course. However Australian manufacturers are concerned lest valuable peacetime markets be lost to them.

WHEAT. The final forecast of the New South Wales harvest is 45 m. bus. which is 2 m. bus. greater than earlier anticipations and compares with  $24\frac{1}{2}$  m. bus. last season and an average of 60.1 m. bus. in the ten seasons 1930-31 to 1939-40. The Australian harvest may be between 160 and 170 m. bus. Average production in the ten years ended 1939-40 was 177.7 m. bus. Last season only 82.7 m. bus. were produced.

Argentine wheat crops, which were full of promise early in the season, have deteriorated and are expected to yield less than 190 m. bus.

A trade report refers to the sale this month of another 120 m. bus. of Canadian wheat to Britain and mentions the belief that this wheat is required for Russia.

North American wheat futures have varied very little during the past fortnight and quotations on the London Baltic Exchange have been unchanged for Argentine and Australian wheat and show a slight rise in price of Canadian wheat.

On the local market there has been some enquiry for wheat for export flour in the last few days but generally business has been confined to the local produce trade and some buying for local flour. Lack of orders for export flour has been reflected in reduced milling activity and a shortage of wheat offals.

Local prices are steady. For bulk wheat for local flour the Board's price is 3s.11 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. a bus. ex trucks, Sydney. Flour is quoted wholesale in Sydney at £12.13s. a ton (including tax).

## PRICES OF WHEAT IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

Shippers' offers to 1938-39. Price of wheat for local flour from Dec., 1939.

<u>Bulk Wheat.</u>	Season ended November.				October.		Nov. 25, 1941.
	Av. 1931-35	1937.	1939.	1940.	1940.	1941.	
	Shillings and pence per bushel.						
Ex trucks, Sydney	2 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 3	2 5	3 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 11 $\frac{1}{4}$	3 11 $\frac{1}{4}$	3 11 $\frac{1}{4}$
Equiv. ex farm at country siding ★	2 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 8	1 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 11	2 11	3 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ Ø	3 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ Ø

\* Exclusive of bounty. Ø Net equivalent of advances made to date.

BUTTER. Where useful rain has fallen along the coast, butter production has increased and sufficient butter is now being made in N.S.W. to meet the local demand. Cheese production is still very low.

Neither pastry nor second quality butter is accepted by the British Government under the new contract. Factories have been advised to discontinue making pastry butter and the Commonwealth Government's policy regarding second grade butter is under consideration.

For choicest butter the price under the British contract for 1941-42 is the same as in 1940-41, i.e., equivalent to 137s.2d. a cwt. f.o.b., Australian ports. The local price (wholesale) of 158s.8d. a cwt. has been unchanged since June 8, 1938.

/PRICES.....

PART I (Continued)

PRICES OF BUTTER - EXPORT AND LOCAL.

	Average - Seasons ended June.					Nov.25, 1941.
	1929-32.	1933-36.	1937-39.	1939.	1941.	
		Shillings	(Aust.) per cwt.			
Export Parity	135	88	122	123	137	137
Local Sales.	173	134	150	159	159	159

METALS. Maximum prices fixed by the British Ministry of Supply in London for certain base metals are unchanged. Prices per ton are:- Electrolytic copper, £62; Lead, £25 and spelter, £25.15s.

Open market quotations in London for tin and silver are very steady. The price of silver has not varied from 1s.11½d. an oz. for over three months. Tin tended a little dearer during the past week and was £257.17s.6d. on Nov. 21 or a little above the average in recent months.

Australian supplies of copper are strained but there are prospects of production being increased in 1941-42 by the operation of new plant recently installed. No. Australian copper is being exported.

Australian producers are being paid for metals exported prices appreciably above those ruling before the war. It is understood that much Australian lead has been sent to the United States. Export parity prices of metals compare as under:-

AVERAGE PRICES OF AUSTRALIAN METALS - EXPORT PARITIES.  
(Australian currency, f.o.b., Australian port.)

	Silver (Standard)	Lead.	Spelter.	Tin (Standard)	Gold (Fine)
	oz.	ton.	ton.	ton	oz.
	s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Average, 1937	2 1.0	27. 9 7	29 1 6	296 16 5	8 15 1
1938	2 0.1	17 12 11	19 12 10	288 11 10	8 17 1
1939	2 1.4	17 12 1	19 15 3	268 3 6	9 14 4
July, 1939	1 9.1	16 19 1	19 14 6	273 3 3	9 44 11
Sept., 1940	2 4.3	18 8 3	24 12 11	287 9 7	10 13 3
Aug., 1941	2 4.6	19 12 10	23 0 0	291 7 8	10 14 0
Sept., 1941	2 4.6	20 7 8	22 0 6	290 17 10	10 14 0

PART II      FINANCE AND TRADE.

WHOLESALE TRADE. Except in the motor trade, etc. (where Government controls have been vigorous) and for the enforced substitution of locally-produced for imported goods, traders appear to have suffered little disturbance to trade generally. Particulars of the number of persons in the employ of wholesalers with ten or more employees (given below) show a tendency for employment to increase somewhat in recent months after varying very little during the preceding two years. Changes in employment in wholesale trade are not necessarily related to the state of business but the recent increase has been associated with appreciable increases in sales both at retail (see succeeding note) and wholesale. This may imply that taxation and appeals for voluntary curtailment of civilian demands have not succeeded in preventing some of the added income of the war period being applied to consumer purchases.

Sales recorded under the Sales Tax Acts in August and the eight months ended August, 1941 were each a record for the month and period. In the increase of 12.6 p.c. in sales in Jan.-Aug., 1941 compared with a year earlier, higher prices and Government purchases of war supplies also have a place. Statistical comparisons are as follow:-

WHOLESALE TRADE - NEW SOUTH WALES.

	Sales by Registered Traders.			Persons employed by Wholesalers with ten or more employees.		
	Month of August.	January to August.	Increase over Jan.-Aug. of Preceding year.	August.	September.	October.
	£million	£million.	Per cent.	No.	No.	No.
1937	16.27	124.56	19.2	24,331	24,474	24,819
1938	15.28	125.90	1.1	25,320	25,515	25,664
1939	16.81	125.78	(-) 0.1	25,420	25,539	25,926
1940	17.17	131.65	4.7	25,924	25,871	25,830
1941	20.41	148.25	12.6	26,222	26,438	26,706

RETAIL TRADE. There are indications that civilian consumption has been increasing rather than being reduced as the concentration of all possible energy upon war objects requires. In the nine months ended September, 1941 goods sold in a group of large city shops were 16.8 p.c. greater in value than in the corresponding period of 1940. Part of the increase is due to higher prices in which higher sales tax was a factor. Freer spending reflects the record level of employment and increased wage-earnings. Thus, in September, 1941 average weekly earnings of all persons in N.S.W. (including females and juniors) employed in firms with ten or more employees were 99s. compared with 91s.5d. in September, 1940 and 87s.7d. in September, 1939. Apparently taxation and voluntary saving (see p. 5) have not drawn off sufficient of the added income to prevent some increase in the demand for goods and services. There has been an appreciable increase in the number of persons employed in shops with ten or more employees during the war period, particularly in the City of Sydney and in the Newcastle District. In October 1941 the number employed in these larger shops (54,109) was 4.8 p.c. greater than in Oct., 1939.

EMPLOYMENT IN RETAIL TRADE - NEW SOUTH WALES.

Middle week of October	Sydney.		Newcastle District.	Country Towns.	Total - N.S.W.	
	City.	Suburbs.			Number.	Incr.-Yr. ended Oct.
	Persons Employed in Shops with Ten or more Employees.					
1937	35,518	4,060	2,404	8,641	50,623	2,742
1938	36,052	4,029	2,453	8,659	51,193	570
1939	36,494	4,066	2,539	8,516	51,615	422
1940	36,636	4,078	2,570	8,316	51,600	(-) 15
1941	38,753	4,222	2,780	8,354	54,109	2,509

/LARGE.....

## PART II (Continued)

LARGE CITY SHOPS. In a group of large city shops sales in September, 1941 were 20.5 p.c. greater in value than in Sept., 1940. Electrical goods (-3.8 p.c.) was the only one of twenty classes showing a decrease and there were two increases exceeding 30 p.c. (including sports and travel goods +38.6%) nine between 20 and 30 p.c. (including food and perishables +29.6 p.c.) and eight between 9 and 20 p.c. Stocks were 10.5 p.c. greater than at the end of September, 1940 though depleted a little in lines such as household piece goods, fancy drapery, building materials, etc. and sports and travel goods. These shops had 5.2 p.c. more employees and paid out 12.2 p.c. more in salaries and wages than in September, 1940. The following comparisons show a considerably greater increase in the value of sales this year than last year in comparison with the corresponding months of a year earlier:-

	<u>Jan.</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Apr.</u>	<u>May.</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>Sept.</u>
	Increase (%) in sales value over same month of preceding year.								
1940	7.8	10.6	-7.6	14.4	7.0	-2.1	11.2	12.7	-1.0
1941	15.2	6.2	13.9	8.3	24.2	38.4	10.5	16.3	20.5

SAVINGS BANKS. The record amount of £91,314,000 was at credit of depositors in savings banks in New South Wales on 31st October, 1941. The increase during October, though large (£579,000) was not as great as in any of the preceding three months, probably because of subscriptions to the Commonwealth £100 m. cash and conversion loan, open from Oct 7 to Nov. 15. Savings deposits usually decrease during big loan operations.

In the four months ended October £3,563,000 was added to savings accounts which was by far the most rapid increase ever recorded:-

July to October -	<u>1935.</u>	<u>1936.</u>	<u>1937.</u>	<u>1938.</u>	<u>1939.</u>	<u>1940.</u>	<u>1941.</u>
Increase : £000	895	(-)45	1008	757	(-)863	2,467	3,563

Much of the money invested in War Savings Certificates would otherwise be deposited in savings accounts. In the nine months ended September the amount paid for War Savings Certificates averaged (at cost, less repayments) £229,844 a month. Thus, in these two forms alone small savings have reached the rate of about £15½ m. a year in the first four months of 1941-42. The record capacity for and practice of thrift are the result of greater employment, higher wage earnings, and patriotic endeavour. (In N.S.W. the wages bill was £211 m. in 1940-41, compared with £190 m. in 1939-40 and £183.5 m. in 1938-39). There were 61,211 more open savings accounts on 31st October, 1941 than at the end of October 1939.

## SAVINGS BANKS IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

	Depositors' Balances.		Increase in Deposits.		Open Savings Accounts.	
	At 30th Sept.	At 31st Oct.	In October	In year ended Oct.	At 30th Sept.	At 31st Oct.
	£000	£000	£000	£000	000	000
1937	82,461	82,960	499	3,005	1,245	1,254
1938	86,436	86,763	327	3,802	1,312	1,318
1939	86,557	86,751	194	(-) 12	1,316	1,320
1940	83,827	84,568	741	(-)2,183	1,327	1,334
1941	90,735	91,314	579	6,746	1,373	1,381

Minus sign (-) denotes decrease.

## PART III INDUSTRIES.

EMPLOYMENT is increasing steadily month by month but not so rapidly as a year ago. Unemployment is almost negligible and there is increasing difficulty in recruiting labour from the hitherto non-wage-earning groups. Many of the 10,977 adult males registered as unemployed at State Labour Exchanges on Oct. 31, 1941 (compared with 50,792 a year before and 52,851 at the beginning of the war) are unsuitable for regular employment.

Industrial disputes in some important industries have been overcome but are threatening stoppages in others. A near-at-hand problem may be to avert an upward course of labour costs becoming so pronounced as to give new impetus to inflationary tendencies.

At 31st October, 1941 there were 918,658 persons in employment in N.S.W. This was 38,777 more than in Oct., 1940 and 68,609 more than in Aug., 1939 (pre-war). Employment has moved in recent years as under:-

## INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN PERSONS IN EMPLOYMENT IN N.S.W.

	June to October.				Year ended October.			
	Private Employ.	Local Govt.	Governmental	All Em-employment	Private Employ.	Local Govt.	Governmental	All Em-employment.
1937	+26,789	+2,041	+ 500	+29,330	+42,828	+6,278	+ 9,800	+58,906
1938	+ 146	- 944	-1,300	- 2,098	+ 9,291	-3,213	+ 1,600	+ 7,678
1939	+21,812	-1,118	-2,200	+18,494	+11,362	-1,326	+ 2,600	+12,636
1940	+24,816	- 931	- 300	+23,585	+24,582	-1,550	+ 6,800	+29,832
1941	+ 7,172	- 224	+3,000	+ 9,948	+27,891	- 504	+11,300	+38,777

Most of the increase in privately employed persons has taken place in manufacturing. The establishment of new Government munitions plants etc. accounts for many of the greater number shown in Government employment. During the past year shops and warehouses have been adding to staff. From Sept. to Oct. there were seasonal increases in employment in wholesale and retail trades and amusements, hotels, etc. Wartime handling and storage of primary products has caused much of the increase in offices and commerce.

Some particulars illustrating the course of employment over the past four years are appended. The rapid expansion of manufacturing industries during the war period (see page 7) is the feature of the table, vide percentage comparisons given in the concluding columns:-

## EMPLOYMENT IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

(Excluding relief workers and men in the Armed Forces not on civil paysheets).

Group.	Persons employed in middle week of -						Movement, Oct., 1941 over	
	Oct., 1937.	Oct., 1938.	Aug., 1939.	Oct., 1940.	Sept., 1941.	Oct., 1941.	Aug., 1939.	Oct., 1940.
	000	000	000	000	000	000	%	%
All Employment	829.7	837.4	831.8	879.9	916.6 <sup>x</sup>	918.7 <sup>x</sup>	+ 10.4	+ 4.4
Private "	679.7	689.0	680.3	725.0	751.2 <sup>x</sup>	753.0 <sup>x</sup>	+ 10.7	+ 3.9
All Factories. <sup>φ</sup>	224.0	230.7	228.7	253.9 <sup>x</sup>	285.7 <sup>x</sup>	286.8 <sup>x</sup>	+ 25.4	+13.0
In Firms with Ten or More Employees -								
Mines	19.3	19.8	21.7	21.3	21.0	20.9	- 3.7	- 1.9
Retail Trade	50.6	51.2	51.3	51.6	53.4	54.1	+ 5.5	+ 4.8
Wholesale Trade	24.8	25.7	25.4	25.8	26.4	26.7	+ 5.1	+ 3.5
Offices and Commerce	26.9	27.6	27.1	30.1	30.6	30.6	+12.9	+ 1.7
Ship'g. & Rd. Transp't.	20.5	20.3	20.7	21.3	21.4	21.4	+ 3.4	+ 0.5
Personal Services. <sup>*</sup>	27.0	29.0	29.3	30.8	31.2	32.4	+10.6	+ 5.2
Other Industries.	22.3	22.3	20.2	19.8	18.7	18.4	- 8.9	- 7.1

- Denotes decrease. <sup>x</sup> Subject to revision <sup>φ</sup> Includes working proprietors.

<sup>\*</sup> Includes hospitals, professions, amusements, hotels, etc.

/The Reserve.....

PART III. (Continued.)

The reserve male labour force is negligible and efforts will be made to attract more women into industry. The ever-increasing needs of war industries will require more effective use of man-power, including the transfer of workers from non-essential civilian activities, and perhaps further revision of the list of reserved occupations. Preliminary to action to meet the problem of labour supply the newly created Production Executive Committee is to make a survey of material and man-power resources, using information collected by the Parliamentary Man-Power Committee.

MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES. There were 286,800 persons employed in factories in N.S.W. in the middle week of October, 1941. This record number is 58,100 more than in the pre-war month (Aug. 1939) and 32,900 more than in Oct., 1940. Changes month by month during the war period were as follow:-

Changes (Increase + Decrease -) in month ended -

	<u>Nov.</u>	<u>Dec.</u>	<u>Jan.</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Apr.</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>Sept.</u>	<u>Oct.</u>
Persons employed in factories - thousands.												
1939 & '40	+3.7	+1.8	-3.7	+2.2	+3.3	-4.5	-5.8	+7.1	+3.5	+4.0	+2.3	+3.3
1940 & '41	+2.8	+5.6	-3.9	+4.4	+7.0	-0.6	+3.0	+4.1	+2.4	+2.6	+4.4	+1.1

The index number of factory employment is 59 p.c. above the average for the best pre-depression year (1928-29). The development of war industries accounts for the rapid increase in 1939-40 and 1940-41 and as more new munitions, etc. factories are being established the upward trend of factory employment is likely to continue:-

EMPLOYMENT IN FACTORIES IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

	<u>Aver.,</u> <u>1928-29</u>	<u>June,</u> <u>1933.</u>	<u>Aug.,</u> <u>1939.</u>	<u>Oct.,</u> <u>1940.ø</u>	<u>Aug.,</u> <u>1941ø</u>	<u>Sept.,</u> <u>1941ø</u>	<u>Oct.,</u> <u>1941ø</u>
Persons (000)	180.7	139.7	228.7	253.9	281.3	285.7	286.8
Index No.	100	77	126	140	156	158	159

ø Subject to revision.

From September to October, 1941 the movements in employment in factories were relatively small except for the further increase in the metals working group and a seasonal rise in food and drink factories. In striving to promote war production to the utmost iron and steel plants have been working to capacity and the output of the coal mines has reached a record level. In the subjoined table the remarkable expansion of the metals working industries is the outstanding feature. Other industries serving wartime needs and showing wartime expansion (see comparisons at foot of table) include chemicals, etc. textiles and clothing, some kinds of wood-working and rubber. The particulars relate only to private factories with ten or more employees and therefore take no account of Government factories newly established and expanded during the past two years:-

EMPLOYMENT IN PRIVATE FACTORIES WITH TEN OR MORE TAXABLE EMPLOYEES, N.S.W.

Middle week of -	Cement, Bricks, Glass.	Chemi- cals.	Indus- trial metals.	Textiles and Clothing	Food and Drink.	Wood- work- ing &c.	Paper & Print- ing.	Rubber.
Number of persons employed - thousands.								
Oct., 1938	10.42	6.77	59.63	34.42	27.39	9.40	13.40	3.69
Aug., 1939(a)	11.50	7.24	61.78	36.96	27.96	9.89	14.81	3.68
Oct., 1940	12.40	8.56	73.26	41.43	30.04	9.99	14.44	3.59
Aug., 1941	13.09	9.56	91.28	42.18	30.80	10.98	14.79	4.60
Sept., "	13.73	9.71	92.87	42.41	31.16	11.27	15.06	4.69
Oct., " (b)	13.71	9.80	93.50	41.96	31.71	11.35	15.04	4.66
Incr. (a) to (b) %	+9.2	35.4	51.3	13.5	13.4	14.8	1.6	26.6

ø These figures are withheld from general publication (see B.S. 1941/9C).

## PART III. (Continued.)

Sales from factories were stimulated by expectations of an increase in sales tax rates under the budget proposals and this probably accounted for part of the large increase in sales made by forty two large factories in Sept., 1941 in comparison with Sept., 1940. In the nine months ended September, however, sales were 36.2 p.c. and 21.4 p.c. greater this year than in 1939 and 1940, respectively. In these factories the number of employees increased by 14.7 p.c. and the weekly wages bill by 24 p.c. between September, 1940 and 1941. Other statistical comparisons are:-

## MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES - NEW SOUTH WALES.

	ALL FACTORIES.		FORTY-TWO LARGE FACTORIES.					
	October.		Month of September.			January to September, (Monthly Averages).		
	Employment.		Sales	Employ-ees.	Wages paid (weekly)	Sales	Employ-ees.	Wages paid (weekly)
	Number	Index No.						
	Aver. 1928-29 =							
	180,756	100	£000	000	£000	£000	000	£000
1937	224,000	124	3231	22.9	90.3	2993	22.3	85.4
1938	230,400	128	3407	23.7	96.7	3136	23.4	95.1
1939	236,700	131	3669	23.1	97.4	3142	23.0	95.3
1940	253,900 x	140 x	3634	24.8	108.8	3452	23.8	102.7
1941	286,800 x	159 x	4746	26.9	136.5	4190	27.3	127.5

x Subject to revision.

GAS AND ELECTRICITY. In October, 1941 the index number of consumption of gas and electricity in Sydney was 154 (Av. 1929-31 = 100). This was a new high point and 14 p.c. higher than in October, 1939. The development of war industries is the major factor in the recent increase in the amount of gas and electricity used. It is estimated that war industries are absorbing the full output of a 50,000 watt turbo-alternator. One additional such generator is on order in Britain for Bunnerong and plant for expansion of power-houses at Pymont and Balmain is also being obtained. Thus the ample reserve of power available in Sydney will be maintained. All metropolitan power houses have been inter-connected and linked with Newcastle and Lithgow plant and the connection between Sydney and Port Kembla is under construction.

## INDEX OF CONSUMPTION OF GAS AND ELECTRICITY - SYDNEY AND SUBURBS.

	<u>1929</u>	<u>1932</u>	<u>1937</u>	<u>1938</u>	<u>1939</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1941</u>
	Index Numbers: Average 1929-31 = 100.						
Month of October	109	96	119	121	135	137	154
Calendar Year	105	96	119	123	131	135	-

RAILWAYS. Curtailment of interstate shipping services and of road haulage by petrol restrictions together with the expansion of war industries and the transport of military etc. personnel and equipment have caused a heavy wartime increase in railway traffic. More passengers are being carried than ever before and excepting a year ago (when the railways were moving goods held up during the coal stoppage) the quantity of goods handled is also a record. In recent months results compare with those of corresponding months of earlier years as follows:-

	<u>Passengers (Mill.)</u>				<u>Goods Ton-Miles (Mill.)</u>				<u>Working Surplus (£000)</u>			
	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>Sept.</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>Sept.</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>Sept.</u>
1938	15.7	15.6	15.8	15.5	157	162	152	138	-237	372	392	383
1939	14.8	15.2	14.3	14.3	158	147	157	171	-229	370	502	669
1940	15.5	15.5	14.9	15.9	181	238	231	207	- 21	808	825	769
1941	18.1	16.8	17.6	18.1	172	185	178	190	-675	623	656	751

Payroll tax is a substantial new item of working costs being met in 1941-42, but financial results continue to compare favourably with those recorded in any year other than 1940.

/It is.....

## PART III. (Continued.)

It is significant of the great increase in employment that passengers carried in Sept. Qr. numbered nearly 20 p.c. more in 1941 than in 1939. Other statistical comparisons are appended:-

## NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS.

	MONTH OF SEPTEMBER.			SEPTEMBER QUARTER.		
	Passenger Journeys.	Goods Ton Mileage	Working Surplus $\phi$	Passenger Journeys.	Goods Ton Mileage	Working Surplus $\phi$
	mill.	mill.	£000	mill.	mill.	£000
1937	15.0	150	552	46.1	440	1488
1938	15.5	138	383	46.9	452	1148
1939	14.3	171	669	43.9	475	1541
1940	15.9	207	769	46.4	676	2401
1941	18.1	190	751	52.5	553	2030

$\phi$  Excess of earnings over working expenses exclusive of interest, etc. charges, amounting in 1940-41 to £6,618,000.

ROAD TRANSPORT SERVICES. Trams and buses in Sydney and Newcastle have so increased their earnings, consequent upon the greater number of passengers carried that the excess of revenue over working expenses (these latter increased by the payroll tax) has reached a record level. There were 24.4 million (27 p.c.) more passengers carried in Sept. Qr. of 1941 than of 1939 and comparing the same periods an increase in working expenses of 16.7 p.c. was more than offset by the increase of 22.1 p.c. in gross earnings. Trams and omnibuses are transporting many people no longer able to use private cars, etc. on account of petrol rationing, and services have been extended to cope with the additional traffic due to this cause, to military travelling, and to the record and rising level of economic activity.

## GOVERNMENT TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS SERVICES - SYDNEY AND NEWCASTLE.

	MONTH OF SEPTEMBER.				SEPTEMBER QUARTER.			
	Earnings.	Working Expenses	Working Surplus $\phi$	Passengers.	Earnings.	Working Expenses	Working Surplus $\phi$	Passengers.
	£000	£000	£000	mill.	£000	£000	£000	mill.
1937	333	282	51	28.7	1003	834	169	87.1
1938	346	304	42	30.0	1026	910	116	89.2
1939	355	302	53	30.1	1060	924	136	90.4
1940	364	300	64	30.9	1104	913	191	94.6
1941	441	363	78	39.1	1294	1078	216	114.8

$\phi$  Excess of earnings over working expenses, exclusive of interest, sinking fund, exchange and depreciation totalling in 1940-41, £662,000.

BUILDING PERMITS.- Metropolis.

(Note: Government buildings are not included in building permits.)

The decrease in the value of building permits in Oct. 1941 was probably incidental to the brick strike. In recent months housebuilding has been at a record level and many factories have been erected but other types of building have decreased, some of them greatly. In the city building is very depressed.

Dwellings proposed have decreased recently on account of fewer flats but in Jan-Oct. were 1,279 greater than in 1940, and 1,646 less than in 1938.

Probably affected by the stoppage of brick deliveries the value of permits granted for erection of private buildings in Sydney and suburbs decreased to £768,000 in October, 1941 from a monthly average of £1,062,000 in the preceding six months. The political crisis and budget uncertainties may also have delayed

/building.....

PART III (Continued.)

building proposals, but there had been a decrease in each of the two preceding months and the total was the lowest for October since 1935. In present circumstances deductions as to trend are not justified from statistical comparisons which are as follow:-

	<u>Dec.</u> <u>Qr.</u> ø	<u>Mar.</u> <u>Qr.</u> ø	<u>June</u> <u>Qr.</u> ø	<u>July</u>	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>Sept.</u>	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>July-Oct.</u> ø
Value of permits for private buildings - £ thousand.								
1937	799 x	650	995	997	1049	1033	963	1010
1938	1082 x	1035	1230	1741	1202	1110	933	1246
1939	1065 x	952	1077	1522	1209	800	1205	1184
1940	868 x	775	993	1048	956	840	833	919
1941	1190 x	786	1078	1239	974	927	768	977
ø Monthly average.                      x Preceding year.								

Contracts for buildings for State and Commonwealth Governments and agencies and private building permits, in October and the four months ended October were together greater in amount this year than in 1940 though less than 1939:-

<u>METROPOLIS</u>		<u>MONTH OF OCTOBER</u>			<u>JULY TO OCTOBER</u>		
		<u>1939</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1941</u>	<u>1939</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1941</u>
Public Bldgs.	£000	109	34	173	597	352	612
Private "	"	1205	833	768	4737	3677	3908
Total		1214	867	941	5334	4029	4520

Building activity in the city is at a very low level, the earlier decline (since 1938) having been reinforced by official building restrictions. In the suburbs, however, private building projects in 1941 approach in value the highest post-depression level:-

CITY BUILDING PERMITS (£000).					SUBURBAN BUILDING PERMITS (£000).					
	<u>1937</u>	<u>1938</u>	<u>1939</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1941</u>	<u>1937</u>	<u>1938</u>	<u>1939</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1941</u>
Oct.	146	183	271	33	115	817	750	935	800	753
Jan.-Oct.	2013	2738	1716	945	487	6964	9043	9105	8035	9013

The outstanding recent characteristic is the record value (for post-depression years) of permits granted for erection of houses:-

<u>Permits for Houses</u>		<u>July</u>	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>Sept.</u>	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>July-Oct.</u>
<u>Metropolis.</u>						
1938	£000	562	585	478	438	2,064
1939	"	592	587	347	460	1,986
1940	"	522	530	440	453	1,945
1941	"	801	643	603	548	2,595

The building of factory premises has also continued actively and more flats were undertaken than in 1940 but buildings such as hotels, shops, theatres, churches, etc. have been curtailed under the building control regulations. In October, 1941 there were decreases in value in comparison with Oct., 1940 for all classes other than houses and factories. Percentage comparisons given at foot of the next table show that in the ten months ended October the value of permits for both brick and wooden etc. houses was greatest in 1941 of any recent years, but for all other classes of buildings was below, and in the cases of hotels etc. shops and "other" buildings, very much below the pre-war level in 1939:-

/Table.....



## PART III. (Continued.)

Comparative particulars are as under:-

## DWELLINGS INCLUDED IN PRIVATE BUILDING PERMITS - SYDNEY AND SUBURBS.

TYPE OF DWELLING.	TEN MONTHS ENDED OCTOBER.					Movement '39 to '41
	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	
	Number of dwelling units.					Per cent.
Houses - Brick etc.	3,050	3,999	3,658	3,601	4,398	+ 20.2
Wood, Fibro etc.	967	1,428	1,461	1,291	1,232	- 15.7
Total - Houses	4,017	5,427	5,119	4,892	5,630	+ 10.0
Flats - In new buildings	2,746	4,607	3,391	2,475	3,039	- 10.4
In converted buildings	408	368	291	202	130	- 55.3
With shops, hotels, etc.	113	202	180	93	60	- 66.6
Total - Flats, etc.	3,267	5,177	3,862	2,770	3,229	- 16.4
Grand Total	7,284	10,604	8,981	7,662	8,859	- 1.4
Less Demolitions & Conversions	373	277	271	261	178	- 24.3
Net Additional Dwellings	6,911	10,327	8,710	7,401	8,681	- 0.3

The number of dwellings proposed this year, equivalent to an annual rate of 10,414 represents a greater provision for new housing than in 1929 or any more recent year with the exception of 1938. Rising building costs, already very high, are a deterrent to house-building. Both State and Federal Governments are formulating policies in regard to housing but specific plans have not yet been announced.

## NUMBER OF DWELLINGS INCLUDED IN BUILDING PERMITS - SYDNEY AND SUBURBS.

	CALENDAR YEAR.					JAN.-OCT.	
	1929	1930-34 <sup>★</sup>	1938	1939	1940	1940	1941
Individual Houses	7,095	1,205	6,432	5,847	5,706	4,892	5,630
In Flats, with shops, etc.	3,097	656	5,821	4,290	4,135	2,770	3,229
Total Dwellings (net) <sup>♢</sup>	9,854	1,839	11,853	9,822	9,557	7,401	8,681

★ Yearly average. <sup>♢</sup> After deducting demolitions and conversions.